

Even though the confirmation of a bird infected with avian/bird flu in the United States does not signal a pandemic, there will be confusion and concern when this happens.

SAMPLE PARENT LETTER #2 FIRST BIRD CASE: Use this letter to help prepare parents for pandemic flu after first bird case is found in United States

Dear Parents,

As expected, birds sick with avian/bird flu virus are now in the United States. It is important to know that, at this time, there are no known human cases of avian/bird flu in the United States.

Health officials are worried that the avian/bird flu virus may change so that people can get sick from it. If that happened it could spread from person-to-person. This would cause a worldwide flu outbreak, called a pandemic.

So even though there is no flu pandemic now, we want to remind you about some ways to protect your family from getting sick:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands a lot with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.
- Do not touch sick or dead birds

Enclosed with this letter is a checklist to help families get ready for a pandemic flu outbreak. This information can also help your family get ready for any kind of emergency.

If you have questions, please contact your School Nurse or healthcare provider. You can call the school hotline (INSERT NUMBER)

You can get more information from the Springfield/Greene County Health Department:

Visit online at www.springfieldmogov.org/health or call (417) 864-1083

The federal government website with information on planning for individuals and families: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org>